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Volume XIX. No. 31

AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—Hercules of the Family—Catastrophe of the Ganges.

BOSTON THEATRE, Broadway—Our Best Society—Paris and London.

NATIONAL THEATRE, Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

AMERICAN THEATRE, Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

BROADWAY MENAGERIE—Shamrock and Wild Beasts.

CHRISTY'S AMERICAN OPERA HOUSE, 472 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

WOOD'S MINSTRELS, Wood's Minstrel Hall, 444 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 608 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

SEYMOUR'S OPERA, 505 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

SIGNER GALLERY, 505 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

SIGNER BLITZ—Savoyard Institute, 609 Broadway.

ACADEMY HALL, 63 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

FOUR CHAPLAIN, 715 Broadway—The American—Little Katty—Uncle Tom's Cabin.

BRYAN GALLERY ON CHRISTIAN ART—St. James.

New York, Sunday, January 22, 1854.

The News.

The Cunard steamer Niagara, with 336 week later advice from Europe, had not reached Halifax up to the date of our last despatch. She has been out nearly fifteen days from Liverpool, having sailed on the 7th inst. The Collins steamer Atlantic, with dates to the 11th, is likewise almost due at this port. The desire to possess further intelligence with regard to the progress of the Russo-Turkish war, and to ascertain the truth or falsity of the rumor received by the Europa that Minister Soffe had been killed in a duel with the Duke de Alba, causes the news coming by the expected steamers to be looked for with a great deal of anxiety.

At eleven o'clock last night the weather was extremely misty in the vicinity of Halifax; but between here and Maine a terrific gale was prevailing. At Sandy Hook it was considered the heaviest of the season, and in this city the wind blew with the most frightful violence during the greater portion of the night. Under these circumstances, it is feared that we shall shortly be under the disagreeable necessity of recording another series of lamentable maritime disasters.

A terrible tornado swept over a portion of the State of Ohio on Friday afternoon. Its track was about half a mile in width, and it demolished almost everything it encountered. The town of Brandon was almost entirely destroyed. The gale was accompanied by terrific lightning and heavy rain, and followed by such a rapid rising of the streams of water that the town of Mount Vernon was partly inundated. The amount of property destroyed is very great.

The rumor of the wreck of the brig Mary Jane, near Halifax, and the loss of one hundred and forty-four persons, has not been, and we hope will not be, confirmed.

It was expected that Cardinal Beldini, the Papal Nuncio, would have sailed from this port for Liverpool in the Baltic yesterday. Previous to her departure, at noon, a large crowd, composed of Germans and members of the "Know-Nothing" Club of New York, assembled at the foot of Canal street, in order to testify, as they said, their dislike of his political and official career in Italy. At the moment the vessel sailed all were in doubt as to whether His Excellency was on board or not—some asserting that he was, whilst others said that he would not leave by the steamer. At the time when the crowd separated they were all in doubt. A despatch from Baltimore states that Mr. Beldini is there, and will preach in the cathedral to-day. As his name is not on the list of passengers by the Baltic, the telegraphic report is no doubt correct.

The final meeting of the merchants of this city, upon the subject of the San Francisco calamity took place yesterday afternoon. It will be seen by the detailed list elsewhere published, that the total amount of funds raised for the purpose of rewarding the rescuers of the people on board the unfortunate steamer, &c., was seventeen thousand and eighty-two dollars, which sum, or its equivalent in services of plate or medals, is to be distributed among the officers and crews of the Three Bells, the Kilby, the Antarctic, and the Lucy Thompson; also, Capt. Watkins, and the first and second officers and chief engineer of the San Francisco, Lieut. Murray of the navy, Sergeant Brown and others. In addition, six thousand dollars have already been raised in Boston, and subscriptions are also in circulation in Philadelphia and Baltimore, so that by the time the various lists are closed the total amount will probably reach thirty or thirty-five thousand dollars, all of which is to be expended in honoring and remunerating the brave men who so nobly exerted themselves in behalf of their suffering fellow beings.

Our Washington correspondent writes that the most intense excitement prevails among Congressmen concerning the Nebraska territorial bill. This measure has already produced a feeling very similar to that which existed during the discussion of the compromise in 1850, and the greatest anxiety exists to know what will be the result of the controversy. Members are fast falling into rank on this question. The Southern secessionists and Northern free soilers are drumming up their forces, and before the close of the session we are likely to see a warfare raging at the capital with a fierceness unparalleled in the history of the nation. While upon this subject, let us recommend a calm and careful perusal of the reminiscences elsewhere published of the late John C. Calhoun, as furnished by his private secretary, Mr. Seville. These sketches of the opinions of the illustrious statesman are exceedingly apposite at the present time.

Mr. Bodice, the Russian minister, is reported to be dangerously ill at Washington. It is thought that he cannot recover.

In addition to a variety of Washington news and other entertaining Sunday reading, we publish another chapter on "Society and Politics at Washington" by the man who nominated Frank Pierce. There is a peculiar vein of quaint morality pervading the dry humor of these curious little sketches that tends to make them acceptable to all classes, and especially to those politicians who may happen to be piously inclined.

Full details of the recent news from Mexico, including additional information relative to Minister Gadsden's treaty, are given in another page. The comments of various of the Mexican and New Orleans journals, with regard to this project, will be found very interesting, from the fact that they afford at a glance the views and opinions of many of the people of the two countries concerning this important matter. Mr. Gadsden is at Charleston, but will leave for Washington to-morrow.

We have received Buenos Ayres files to the 3d of December. The commercial summary contained in the latest number of the Argentine Packet is favorable to the circulation of imported goods, and shows a steadily advancing buoyancy of public credit. The approaching election of a President, and the choice of General Urquiza, formed the subjects of

anxious concern to the politicians. It was found that the reports of Indian invasions on the southern districts were untrue. Accounts from Montevideo were very unsatisfactory. The journals say that another civil war had broken out in that republic, and that organized bands had crossed from Entre Rios to aid the revolutionists.

An entire block of buildings, with a large portion of their contents, were destroyed by fire at Rochester yesterday morning. They were variously occupied as hotels, dining saloons, dry goods, grocery, drug and shoe stores, &c., and the total loss is estimated at about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, half of which is covered by insurance. A large fire broke out at Castleton, Vt., at seven o'clock on Friday night, and was not subdued till ten o'clock yesterday morning. The loss, which is very heavy, has not been ascertained.

Jonah Touro, estimated to have been worth from a million to a million and a half of dollars, died at New Orleans last Wednesday. The bulk of his property is reported to have been left to different charitable institutions in that city.

A despatch from Erie states that the rioters, on Friday night, lunged in effigy Mr. Walker, the father of the railroad director who was maltreated by the females on the occasion of their turning out to tear down the bridges some days ago. The excitement is said to have been very great; but as the chief leaders of the mob seem to have been absent, attending the trial of their brethren at Pittsburgh, the infuriated mass fortunately did not do any particular damage to person or property. The decision of the Judge of the United States Court at Pittsburgh was to have been rendered yesterday in the case of the rioters charged with contempt, but, probably owing to the violence of the gale, we are minus our regular despatch.

We annex a brief list of a portion of the contents of this day's papers:—The bill for the Suppression of Intemperance, now pending in the New York Legislature; Investigation of the Bedford Riot case at Cincinnati; View of Rome and the Papal Government, by an Italian Herald; Railroad Accidents; Letter detailing the golden discoveries in Manila; Lectures on "Japan and Leo Choo," by Bayard Taylor, and "The Life and Times of John Milton," by Chas. Matthews; Decision relative to the Amory Estate; Obituaries of Capt. Partridge, Col. John M. Washington, and others; a variety of religious, political, commercial, theatrical and miscellaneous intelligence, &c.

The Treachery of the South—Its Consequences in the North.

The treachery of the Southern democratic press, and of the Southern democratic politicians in Congress, to the Union sentiment of all parties in the North, under the influence of the spoils, is beginning to shape out its disastrous influences against the harmony of the Union. We can already understand, from the complexion of things around us, the meaning of Mr. Calhoun, in his dying speech in the United States Senate, of March 4, 1850. It is simply this: that the old danger to the Union still survives, that it has increased, is still increasing, and that the final battle upon the vital issue of slavery, between the North and the South, has yet to be fought.

It is scarcely four years ago that a large body of patriotic men of both the old political parties, whigs and democrats, met in Castle Garden and adopted that bold, patriotic ground of adjustment marked out by Henry Clay, and which was subsequently followed up by the co-operation of Webster, Cass, and other Union men of both houses of Congress, in the passage of the compromise measures. And now, after the lapse of this brief interval, we find some of the same men who figured in the Union councils at Castle Garden, and some of the same interests, combining with the anti-slavery agitators, in inciting another revolution upon this dangerous and critical question of Southern slavery. They have joined in a call for a public meeting at the Tabernacle in opposition to the Nebraska Territorial bill of Senator Douglas, which proposes to drop the Missouri compromise line and leave the people of the territory to settle the question for themselves. Thus the third, Erie war between the two sections is opened. "Deianda est Carthago!" at length became the war cry of the old Romans, and Carthage was destroyed. The same sentiment has become the universal motto of the anti-slavery societies of the North; and where, at this crisis, do we find the men of the South? We find them joined with the coalition at Washington for the spoils while the enemy are gathering round their citadel.

Now, whatever technical terms may be applied in this Nebraska territorial organization, it is manifest that the apple of discord will be there—manifest that this gloomy controversy will be extended upon a broader and deeper basis than any man could have dreamed of one short year ago; and equally manifest is it that the mischief will widen and ripen, till in the end there is an utterly incurable alienation between the Northern and Southern sections of this Union. This call for the meeting at the Tabernacle is but the first lurid flash along the darkening horizon—the first warning of the distant thunder and the gathering elements of still another storm. And yet those of the South, deserting their faithful Northern allies, affect to laugh at the danger while rallying to the general scramble for the spoils.

It is now about twenty years ago that the revival of the anti-slavery agitation was commenced, a general truce of some eight or ten years having followed the Missouri compromise. This revival began first as a great moral movement in the North in opposition to Southern slavery; secondly, it assumed the character of a religious agitation; and lastly, its moral and religious elements were merged in a political revolutionary organization, or series of organizations, directly operating upon our political elections. In the first stage Southern slavery was discussed in its moral aspects, and Southern planters were subjected to the consequences in the social conversations at our hotels and fashionable watering places.

Next the leaven began to rise among the various Protestant churches of the North, and the Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians, all felt its effects. They were agitated—they of the same church North and South were embittered against each other—the mild and holy teachings of the New Testament were borne down by the sectional animosities among those of the same faith—they were rent asunder, North and South, and they remain divided to the present day.

Mr. Calhoun always regarded this phase of the anti-slavery agitation as indicating the most imminent danger to the Union, from the stubborn and reckless tenacity of religious fanaticism. And he was right; for the succeeding phase of this element of discord and disunion, merging its moral and religious bearings into political action in all our popular elections was the only remaining step to the full development of the conspiracy. In all its phases, moral, religious and political, such was the active strength of this combined movement against the South, in regard to our acquisitions from Mexico, that it was only by a fusion of self-sacrificing men of all parties that insurrection, civil war and

armed secession, were arrested in the adjustment of 1850.

Following this adjustment we have had an interval of rest and quiet; but not the rest of a permanent victory—not the quiet of a lasting peace. It has been but the repose accorded by a hostile army until it can reunite its scattered forces for another assault upon the first inviting occasion—it has been but the armistice made with an enemy that has never laid down his arms. The election of Gen. Pierce—a free soil President—the coalition of a free soil secession Cabinet, and the Holy Alliance of spoilsmen, Cabinet, Congress and lobby combined, are rallying the anti-slavery forces again to the field in advance of their own anticipations. The Northern allies of the South being trampled upon and dismissed with contempt, the last ligament is broken between the two sections. The struggle approaches, and the South must stand or fall alone. Let her spoils-seeking politicians in Congress, and her present organs of the spoilsmen, from the Richmond Enquirer and the Charleston Mercury down to the most obscure weekly of the most obscure district of Alabama, lie in for the spoils. The Union men of the North owe no further allegiance. They are free henceforth to take their own course, as may suit best their personal, local, or sectional interests.

But the meeting called at the Tabernacle, we repeat is only the beginning of the great combined movement in quiet process of organization against all parties and all factions of the North against the further extension of slavery. The spoilsmen of the South in Congress and the Southern organs of the spoilsmen will feel it before this Nebraska bill becomes a law. The Union democrats of New York and the North have done their duty. Dismissed with the laughter derision and contempt of Southern spoilsmen, their old alliance ceases. The field is free and open for the abolitionists to enter. The administration, Congress and the spoilsmen, are making a powerful diversion in support of a combined assault upon Southern slavery in every measure in which the subject is involved. We shall have the beginning with this meeting at the Tabernacle. Can the Richmond Enquirer, or the Charleston Mercury, or any other Southern organ of the Washington spoils coalition, tell us what will be the ending? Can they look at the present state of things and tell us upon whom they intend to call in the hour of danger?

The Washington Union on Spoils.

The Washington Union is airing its conscience again. It denies that it is sold to lobby agents, spoils-traders, and railroad monopolists; swears that it does not favor them at all. Of course it adds, by way of strengthening its denial, that the Herald is "polluted," "loathsome," &c. When the Herald informed the public that Mr. Gadsden had concluded a treaty with Mexico the Union also denied it, called our statement a gross fabrication, and, as usual, threw in a little collateral abuse of ourselves. On that occasion the truth came quicker upon the Union than it expected; ere its emphatic denial was ten days old it was forced to retract. We have no hope of an equally prompt detection in the case before us. But we do not think the last denial one whit more honest or more trustworthy than the first. In fact, the Union's denials are understood to amount to nothing more than pleas of "not guilty" which the humanity of our laws accords to every culprit. It will go on denying and denying, just as pickpockets plead innocence every time they are sent to prison, and will grow in unblushing impudence as the number and degree of its convictions become more notorious.

We have not the smallest doubt that the Union is really the organ of all the corrupt and spoils legislation which has been maturing at Washington during the last few weeks, and is now producing itself in the shape of patent extensions, railroad schemes, and other monopolies. We feel perfectly certain that the publication of the first letter which appeared in its columns on the subject of Mr. Colt's application for a renewal of his patent arose from a desire on the part of the Union to further the interests of Mr. Colt; also, that the second communication, adverse to his bill, was published in that paper with the sole view of getting it out of the scrape and furnishing a reply to our charge that the Union was the organ of the patentees; also, that the statement in its last issue, that it "has not investigated" and has not "expressed itself in favor" of Colt's patent, are totally at variance with the truth. Now, the public has a broad view between our selves and the Union. The history of the Mexican treaty will aid them in deciding which of the two is entitled to the greater confidence.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we are not opposed to a renewal of Mr. Colt's patent. We believe Mr. Colt to be a deserving man, and we know his arm to be one of great merit and extensive application. All that his advocates urge in his favor is likely to be true. But we are irreversibly and irremovably opposed to anything like special legislation for benefitting individuals at the expense of the community. We see no warrant and no necessity for the extension of any patent rights by act of Congress. That body has provided a plain straightforward way for ensuring to inventors a proper reward for their labors. Hitherto that system has been found to work satisfactorily and harmoniously. Under it inventors are entitled to secure ample remuneration for the service they render to the world, either by exercising their patent rights for a single term of fourteen years only, or, in the case where the profits thus gained should prove inadequate, by a further extension of their monopoly for seven years. Now, if this system is not found to work well, we most assuredly alter it. We must dismiss the Commissioner of Patents if he discharges his duty in an inefficient or improper manner, or we must modify or repeal the law if it does not attain the objects it was intended to secure, viz.: the remuneration of inventors and the protection of the public. If the gentlemen who are now pressing special bills on the notice of Congress can establish either of these facts, this is the course they are bound to pursue. But to pretend to appeal from the decision of the Commissioner of Patents to Congress, without impugning either that officer or the law under which he acts, appears to us as mischievous as it would be to appeal to a defeated litigant in the United States Supreme Court to carry his case before Congress, as a last resource. We are therefore decidedly opposed to the passage of any special bills through Congress for the purpose of renewal of patents or any other monopolies which failed to obtain a renewal under the established statutes.

These are our views. If the Union intended to convey similar ones in the long columns

which it devotes to the subject, then we stand together, and we hope it will do its best to carry out our common convictions. In the belief that, after all, we may possibly yet be found on the same side in the controversy, we will give the Union some advice. Let it get rid of its habit of using coarse language. People may differ from it in opinion without being either "loathsome" or "polluted." These are figures of speech which none but ill-bred men or very youthful rhetoricians ever use. They add no strength to an argument, and, if we may be allowed to speak from our own experience, are not very telling weapons in a controversy. If the Union were a little more abstemious in this respect, and tried the effect of occasional flashes of truth, it would be a more formidable debater. Of course we only offer these hints because we fancy the Union is going to advocate some views which we share. We should not have thought of complaining of the systematic abuse which the Union has showered upon our paper and our person during the last few months. We think we can safely say that the incessant stream of calumny and hard words—original and selected—with which the Union has visited our misdeeds, has never once provoked us to retort upon old General Armstrong, the principal proprietor of that paper, or Nicholson, the principal editor. How they would like to be called "vagabonds" and "polluted wretches," &c., &c., day after day, we cannot say. Whatever feelings such a course on the part of the official organ might arouse in their breasts, were they in our position, and we in theirs, they would doubtless set less value on the abuse lavished on them if they had in their pockets a full refutation of the slanders, and a full vindication of their character from no less an authority than the President of the United States.

The Pennsylvania Insurrection.

In the teeth of an outcry that would have appalled most factions our neighbors in Pennsylvania are still pursuing their lawless career and seeking yet further depths of infamy. We recorded a few days since the destruction of several bridges by the modest and refined ladies of Erie. We have now to draw public notice to the passage through the Pennsylvania Senate of the bill repealing the charter of the Franklin Canal Company. Should that bill receive the sanction of the House of Representatives and the Governor, it would deprive the railroad company of the only authority under which they are acting, and would definitely close the contest by securing the victory to the people of Erie. Judging from the unanimous vote by which the bill passed the Senate, it would appear that little doubt can be entertained of its reception by the other branch of the Legislature. The true Pennsylvanian spirit is obviously roused, and we must now expect from thence surpassing efforts in the way of meanness and narrow-mindedness. Like all races which have aimed at being exclusive, shutting themselves out from their neighbors, and steadily intermarrying among themselves, there is no doubt that the last century has effected a very serious deterioration in the inhabitants of Pennsylvania. We should look in vain to-day for any of that large and liberal spirit which warmed the bosoms of their forefathers of the Revolutionary era; petty, local, selfish cravings after gain have choked it long since.

Still, in spite of the plain indications afforded by these facts, we are loath to believe that the Legislature of Pennsylvania will yet cross the Rubicon, and declare open war upon the United States, by repealing the Franklin Canal Company's charter. Blinded as our neighbors seem to be by prejudice, and eager as they have shown themselves to injure New York, we can hardly bring ourselves to expect that they will place on record so disgraceful a memento of narrow-minded selfishness. We speak not on behalf of the company, nor seek to lay stress on the private injustice involved in the sudden repeal of a charter in full faith, on which large sums of money have been expended and large worlds undertaken. The Franklin Canal Company must bear the penalty of having relied on such a body as the Pennsylvania Legislature. The injury done to them is the smallest of the wrongs involved in the repeal of their charter. It is the principle embodied in that repeal which we regard as an indelible stain on the Pennsylvania escutcheon—a principle which states in broad terms that the people of the East and the people of the West shall have no thoroughfare through Pennsylvania unless they consent to pay toll on their way. Like Rob Roy in his Highland dells, the people of Erie intercept passengers on their journey, and refuse to allow them to proceed till the accustomed blackmail is paid. In this attitude the pirates and highwaymen are sustained by their government. The Senate approves the bold outlaws; and ere long we may hear of the Governor awarding them the same protection which feudal lords, for private reasons, used formerly to extend to felons of a similar stamp. In plain words, the enactment of the law which has just passed the Senate of Pennsylvania will establish that the people of that State will not allow a road to be built within their borders unless the predatory propensities of the people of Erie are cared for in the act. This will, to our mind, be the first instance in which a State has refused to permit private individuals to improve its internal communications from a sordid fear that rapidly of travel would diminish the consumption of victuals by passengers on the way.

Should the Legislature of Pennsylvania, however, be bent on repealing the charter, the rest of the country ought to look around at once and examine the measures such an unparalleled outrage would require us to take. An emphatic declaration by Pennsylvania, "that the East and West shall not communicate through her borders without paying toll," clearly amounts to a declaration of hostilities against the Union. We expect no army to cross the border, and recommend no fortifications to be erected; but, practically, the course pursued by Pennsylvania is an overt act of war just as much as a refusal to allow our vessels to unload in her ports would be. An absolute injury is inflicted on the whole East and West—an injury probably greater in its results than the effects of a few months war. These aggressions afford an ample justification for stringent measures. Both as an example for the future and a punishment for Pennsylvania, it is but right that the United States should retaliate upon their rebellious sister. Two measures would probably effect the desired end and bring Pennsylvania to her senses. One is the removal of the Mint from Philadelphia to New York; the other the repeal of the protective duty on iron. The former has been long required by the interests of trade; the inconvenience now suffered by parties here who receive large

quantities of gold from beyond sea and are obliged to send it to Philadelphia to be coined has long engaged the attention of our leading men. The insubordination and reckless disregard for the interests of the Union now evinced by Pennsylvania afford an excellent opportunity of carrying out this very necessary change. Nor is it less obvious that Pennsylvania, which absolutely refuses to allow her neighbors even to cross her borders without paying toll, should not be allowed to levy a tax upon all of us for her private benefit. Here have we been this many a year paying six or seven millions of dollars to protect the iron works of that State. It is time this was stopped. If the iron works cannot support themselves to-day they should be abandoned; at all events, if we cannot be permitted to travel from Buffalo to Cleveland without paying toll at Erie we object to a continuance of the protective system. We expect the delegations from the North, East and West, to take up these matters at once, and legislate, with promptitude and vigor; nor can we doubt that the South will see the necessity of espousing their cause with frankness and spirit.

The New Common Council—Terrible Condition of the City.

We have now been nearly a month under the reign of the new "reform" Common Council, and the actual condition of the city has been growing daily worse and worse. What with squabbling for offices, and making reform speeches for Buncombe, the material every day interests of the city have altogether received the go-by. Every body is engaged in struggling for a little popularity, or clutching at a portion of the spoils, while the city is left to take care of itself. The estimates of expenditure for the present year already amount to over four millions of dollars; and on Monday evening several Aldermen objected to the passage of the Comptroller's budget on the ground that it was not large enough, and must be increased in some important items. Alderman Herrick, among others, ingeniously confessed that if the Board would grant them a few days more he would undertake to swell the bill at least fifty thousand dollars on the single appropriation for gas. The budget, as thus increased, was adopted last evening; but we doubt not that the pious and patriotic example of Mr. Herrick will be emulated by other members in the course of its discussion, so that by the time the appropriation bill passes it will probably reach five millions.

Now, the first end and aim of the Common Council is to see that this huge little sum of five millions is properly applied; and to secure so desirable an object every body of course tries to get as much as possible of it into his own hands. To one who "knows the ropes" the meetings of the new Council thus far have presented only a series of struggles on all hands to get control of the largest possible amount of this famous five millions. Meanwhile nobody cares about the city—nobody thinks of the interests of the public in any one particular. The humbugged inhabitants are doomed literally to wallow through mud and filth for the want of scavengers—to run the risk of breaking their necks down cellar traps and building caves—to be liable to be insulted and beaten in omnibuses and cars—to be knocked down and robbed in the public thoroughfares—and, altogether, to be worse protected and worse cared for than the travellers through the passes of the Rocky Mountains at the same time that they are paying three times as much in direct taxation as would suffice to procure a good and efficient city government.

Yes, we confidently assert that for two millions a year competent and responsible parties can be found who will undertake to provide our city with a complete and efficient administration of its affairs—to keep the streets clean and the pavements in repair—to see that the lamps are lighted and the public markets rendered accessible and tolerable—to police the whole city day and night with good and faithful men, who won't run away at the first tap of a club on the sidewalk—and to see that all the other interests of the city are faithfully and promptly administered. In fact, two millions is ample for all this; and of course the other three millions, even if affairs were properly administered under the present régime, would be, as they are, common public plunder for the paid and sworn servants of the people.

This seems an enormous sum to be squandered by the public officers of a single city, even of the size and importance of New York. But an examination into the way in which the business of the city is conducted will at once quench all astonishment. For example, for the single item of the commissioners' charges and counsellors' fees in opening new streets and avenues, &c., the city has paid for years past at the rate of from \$40,000 to \$100,000 a year for services that ought to have been performed for one-fifth part of that sum. The process of that swindle is this:—On the opening of a street or avenue the Counsel for the Corporation applies to the Supreme Court for three commissioners for that particular job. These commissioners receive four dollars a day for appraising and assessing the value of the land which is to be occupied by the proposed improvement. They hire a room, a set of clerks, buy a large quantity of stationery, (which proves anything but stationary,) employ a surveyor, hire carriages, messengers, and the Lord knows what and set themselves quietly down for a nice fat job—the corporation counsel being, of course, retained at a swinging fee of \$600 to \$1,000 for each affair. The arrangements being thus completed, our commissioners meet every morning at the nearest oyster cellar or public house, take a drink all round at the expense of the corporation, and adjourn over to next day. This goes on for a period of time averaging from five months to two years, for labor which could have been thoroughly performed in from three days to a week. In due time the account is presented to the Supreme Court—the judge has no time to attend to it, or is perhaps conveniently out of town—and so the clerk audits the account, certifies to its being correct, and the money is paid over.

We are aware that statements implying such unmitigated rascality as this are unworthy of attention unless supported by special instances, and we therefore give enough from our notes and data to show that we know what we are about, and that these allegations are not lightly brought. In the case of opening Seventh avenue the assessment of real estate was \$48,000, and the costs of the commissioners and corporation attorney for the job were \$13,500. The charges of the commissioners and counsel in the case of the Eleventh avenue were over \$9,000. The Fourth avenue cost \$33,333 for commissioners' and counsellors' fees and expenses alone; and so on. In one case, that of extending 125th

street, at Harlem, for about three blocks, the assessment for property was only \$1—the owners of the real estate having given the land for nothing—while the fees of counsel and commissioners amounted at first to \$2,750. This, however, being rejected by the court, another effort was made by taking into the proposed improvement a portion of the street which had been already open for many years—and this time the costs swelled to \$3,081. If this is not already paid we advise an immediate settlement, for there is no telling what it will amount to in a few months longer. Senator Whitney, from this city, has recently introduced a bill prohibiting the Counsel of the Corporation from receiving fees in any case of opening streets and avenues; and although this functionary, as we understand, has gone to Albany with a squad of friends and dependants for the purpose of defeating the passage of the bill, yet we trust that the Legislature will not be champed or bamboozled into defeating or neglecting this salutary measure. It is true that it stops up but one leakhole; but when we are at sea in a gale, with the piston-rod broken and the gallant ship foundering, any relief is vitally welcome.

We have, however, very little serious hope of the passage of this bill, as a majority of the New York city delegation in the Legislature have been too well drilled in the part they are to play, to permit any real retrenchment to take place in the administration of the affairs of the city. Besides, schemes of personal interest and aggrandizement are pressing upon them from every quarter, and occupying all their time and attention. Amongst others we learn that a delegation is now in Albany, headed by an editor of a particularly reformative Wall street journal, to log-roll a bill through the present Legislature authorizing the city of New York to issue \$2,000,000 of stock, in the shape of a loan, to pay off the debts and liabilities incurred by the law of 1843 authorizing the corporation to buy in the real estate forfeited for non-payment of taxes, which law was subsequently set aside by Judge Edmonds and the decision sustained by the Court of Appeals. This nice little plumb pudding of \$2,000,000 is anxiously watched in the cooking, and everybody expects to get a handsome slice. But we shall see how far the members from the other parts of the State will permit themselves to be humbugged and hoodwinked by the Peter Funk lobby members from New York city and their hungry friends.

TERRIBLE CONDITION OF NEW YORK.—What is the condition of our city—its streets, its avenues, its markets, its wharves, its sidewalks? With all our boasted prosperity and refinement—our palatial hotels, where our republican ladies and gentlemen, for three dollars a day and extras, sit at tables and march through saloons and corridors that shame the Louvre and Versailles—the moment you venture out of doors you are painfully reminded that you are in the worst governed, the most unsafe, the filthiest and most uncomfortable city in the world. If you get into an omnibus you will be coolly detained by the driver until his vehicle is full, and then you will run the risk of having your pocket picked, or, if you are a lady, of being grossly insulted by some drunken ruffian. Venture into a rail-car, and you find yourself standing squeezed like a red herring in a box among fifty or sixty people in a car intended only for twenty or thirty. Here you are trampled on, spit on by tobacco-chewers and suffocated with the fumes of dirty bodies and whiskey-willing stomachs. To avoid all these, go out on foot, and the first thing you will encounter will be the preparations for a new building, which entirely occupy the sidewalk and extend half across the street, compelling you to wade through the mud round a brick-pile at the risk of being knocked down by a democratic cab-driver or having the pole of an omnibus driven through your body. As to those immaculate policemen, with their uniform blue surtouts and gold buttons and stars, we have read of them, but we have not yet heard of the lucky individual who has seen them.

In the lower part of the city, and even in Broadway itself, the mud and filth of the streets are at this moment frightful—inconceivable. Complaints are daily pouring into the office of the Chief of Police, who can do nothing but hand them over to the Street Commissioner. He will do nothing, because the streets are to be cleaned by contract, and he has no power in the premises. The Mayor can do nothing—the heads of the executive departments shoulder the responsibility from one to the other, until at last it is tumbled into the mud and disappears; and the Common Council wastes its time and the people's money in manœuvring to see who shall get the first grab at those five millions of public plunder looming so temptingly in the distance.

What is the key to all this mischief? Simply this: there is no responsibility anywhere—and without direct responsibility no good government is possible. Every year's experience is pressing upon us with irresistible force the conviction that, to have a good and efficient city government, supreme power as well as supreme responsibility must be vested in a single department or a single individual. We don't care who this individual may be, nor what his office is called, so that he is honest, vigorous, and is vested with absolute power to carry summarily into effect those daily and hourly functions of government upon which the health, cleanliness, and good order of the city depend. All patchwork petty legislation, even by men ten times wiser than any Common Council that ever did or is likely to exist, only frets and irritates the sore and exhausts the strength of the patient. We must have an out-and-out reform—a reform in the whole structure and theory of our city government—a reform that will sweep away all these innumerable departments and powers, responsible to nobody but themselves, and jealous only as to who shall secure the greatest amount of public plunder, and in their place erect, on a broad and firm basis, a single massive, simple system of practical government, clothed with absolute power and charged with infinite responsibility.

KORSA AND HIS FRIENDS.—Martin Korsa, a Hungarian, upon whose shoulders two men (Commander Graham and Secretary May) have risen to fame, which they could never have otherwise achieved, is now in this city, where he has been living for some time past on the charity of some of his so-called supporters. He went to Europe to secure, if possible, something from the wreck of his family estate, but before he could do so he was seized at Smyrna, liberated, and sent off to America. He landed at Boston without a cent. He was "expressed" in Washington, where Martin was glad to know that he was free, and hinted to him that it would be well enough for him to go about his business. He returned to New York, having been obliged to borrow money for his expenses from some foreign friends at Washington. He had left his trunk in Boston, and was again obliged to borrow money with which to obtain them. He secured his trunks, and then took up his residence with a hospitable German at Brooklyn. He has made many applications for